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ABSTRACT

Using 2000 U.S. Census data, this report compares the situation of children in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to children's situations in neighboring territories and the nation overall. Between 1990-2000, the number of children in the Northern Mariana Islands increased 49 percent, while the number increased nationwide by only 14 percent in the past decade. Between 1989-1999, the Commonwealth's child poverty rate decreased from 39 to 38 percent, compared to a decrease from 18 to 16 percent nationally. About 35 percent of families with children in the Northern Mariana Islands were below poverty in 1999, with 54 percent below poverty among female-headed families. Nationwide, 14 percent of families with children and 34 percent of female-headed families with children were below poverty. Between 1990-2000, the percentage of 16-19-year-olds high school dropouts in the Commonwealth increased from 29-30 percent, while nationwide, only 10 percent were high school dropouts in 2000. Commonwealth municipalities. The 1999 poverty rates and high school dropout rates were highest on Saipan Island. Three appendices present information on the Census 2000 questionnaire, selected data for the total population and for children, and selected percentages for childen in the Northern Mariana Islands. (Contains 11 references.) (SM)

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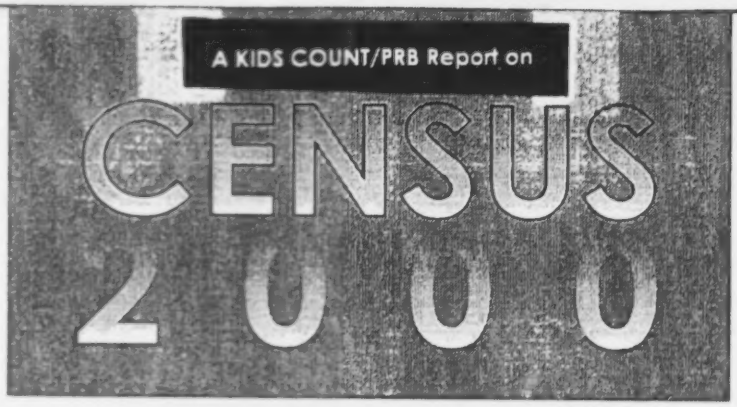

Children in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: Results of the 2000 Census

By the Population Reference Bureau

The Annie E. Casey Foundation and
the Population Reference Bureau
December 2002

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This paper is part of a series of reports on the 2000 Census prepared for the nationwide network of KIDS COUNT projects. These reports have been guided by the recommendations of an expert advisory group of data users and child advocates brought together in a series of meetings by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Population Reference Bureau. Members of the advisory group have provided valuable assistance about how to interpret and use data from the 2000 Census.

A list of the advisory group members can be found at the back of this report.

For more information or for a pdf version of this report, visit the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT website at www.kidscount.org or PRB's AmeriStat website at www.ameristat.org.

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By Mark Mather
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Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of children in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, based on data from the 2000 U.S. Census. It documents the situation of children in the Northern Mariana Islands, how it compares with conditions of children in neighboring territories and in the nation as a whole, and how the characteristics of children have changed over time. The following key points summarize the report's major findings:

Children in the Northern Mariana Islands

- Between 1990 and 2000, the number of children in the Northern Mariana Islands increased 49 percent, from 11,905 to 17,733. In the nation as a whole, the number of children increased by only 14 percent during the past decade.
- Children as a percentage of the population in the Northern Mariana Islands has decreased in recent decades because of a large influx of temporary, adult migrant workers. The percentage of the population under age 18 dropped from 57 percent in 1970 to only 26 percent in 2000. This is equal to the proportion under age 18 in the United States as a whole in 2000.
- Between 1989 and 1999, the child poverty rate in the Commonwealth decreased slightly, from 39 percent to 38 percent. Nationally, the child poverty rate dropped from 18 percent to 16 percent during the 1990s.
- About 35 percent of families with children in the Northern Mariana Islands were below poverty in 1999, while among female-headed families with children, 54 percent were below poverty. Nationwide, about 14 percent of families with children—and 34 percent of female-headed families with children—were below poverty in 1999.

- In 2000, about 17 percent of families with children in the Northern Mariana Islands were headed by a female householder. This represents an increase over the share of female-headed families with children in 1990 (12 percent) but is still lower than the national average. Nationwide, the share of female-headed families increased from 20 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 2000.
- Between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of 16-to-19-year-olds in the Northern Mariana Islands who were high school dropouts (not enrolled in school and not high school graduates) increased slightly, from 29 percent to 30 percent. Nationwide, only 10 percent of 16-to-19-year-olds were high school dropouts in 2000.

Children in Local Communities

- Between 1990 and 2000, the number of children in the Northern Mariana Islands increased significantly in three of the four municipalities. The number of children increased most rapidly (by 50 percent) on Saipan, the most populated island. Saipan's 10th District had the biggest gains, with a 174 percent increase in the population under age 18.
- In 1999, the poverty rate was highest on Saipan Island (39 percent), followed by Tinian (30 percent) and Rota (27 percent) islands. At the local level, child poverty rates exceeded 50 percent in Saipan's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd districts.
- Saipan Island also had the highest percentage of teens ages 16 to 19 who dropped out of high school (32 percent), compared with 18 percent on Tinian Island and 8 percent on Rota Island.

Background on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Recent History

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is located 125 miles northeast of Guam, about three-quarters of the way from Hawaii to the Philippines. The Commonwealth consists of three main islands—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—and several smaller islands and atolls. The chain of islands extends about 430 miles, from Uracus Island in the north to Rota Island in the south.

The islands that make up the Commonwealth were once part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The United Nations created the Trust Territory after the end of World War II and transferred control of the islands from Japan to the United States. By the mid 1970s, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands decided they wanted to separate from the rest of the Trust Territory. They voted to become a commonwealth, which would govern its own affairs but also maintain close economic and political ties with the United States. After extensive negotiations, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was officially established in 1986.

Saipan Island is recognized as the seat of government in the Commonwealth, but no locality on that island is recognized specifically as the capital. Citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands elect a governor and lieutenant governor, an 18-member House of Representatives, and a nine-member Senate. The Commonwealth does not have representation in the U.S. Congress.

People living in the Northern Mariana Islands are subject to most U.S. federal laws and are eligible to participate in federal programs. However, the Commonwealth is in charge of its own immigration laws, and U.S. minimum wage laws do not apply there. Since 1986, the Commonwealth has developed an aggressive immigration policy that recruits temporary laborers

from China and the Philippines to work in its growing garment manufacturing, services, and tourism industries. The availability of low-cost labor has provided economic benefits to the Commonwealth, but labor unions and human rights activists have serious concerns about what they consider "sweatshop" conditions in some of the Commonwealth's garment factories. Labor and immigration policies in the Northern Mariana Islands have also attracted the attention of Washington lawmakers, some of whom support the free market capitalism on the islands and others who have criticized the "lax wage and immigration laws" there.[1] The U.S. Department of Labor has brought several actions against the garment manufacturers, including one that resulted in a $9 million fine.[2]

Demographics

The total land area of the Northern Mariana Islands is 181 square miles, about twice the size of Washington, D.C. In 2000, the total population of the Commonwealth was 69,221—less than half the size of nearby Guam and only one-eighth the size of the District of Columbia. Over 90 percent of the population in the Northern Mariana Islands lives on Saipan Island at the southern end of the island chain.

Many different racial, ethnic, and cultural groups are represented in the Northern Mariana Islands. In the 2000 Census, about 26 percent of residents in the Commonwealth identified themselves as Filipino, 22 percent reported that they were Chinese, 21 percent identified themselves as native Chamorros, 4 percent said they were Carolinian (another native group), 3 percent said they were Korean, 10 percent reported two or more races, and the remaining 14 percent identified with other racial or ethnic groups.[3]

The growth of the foreign-born population in the Northern Mariana Islands has dominated the demographics of the Commonwealth in recent decades. In 1970, the Commonwealth had 155 foreign-born residents. By 2000, the foreign-born population had grown to 40,122 and outnumbered the native-born residents (29,099). Eighty-six percent of the foreign-born population came to the island after 1990.[4] Most of the new immigrants are temporary workers from the Philippines and China.

Economics

The economy in the Northern Mariana Islands relies heavily on garment manufacturing, tourism revenue, and expenditures by the U.S. government. The number of tourists exceeded 500,000 per year during most of the 1990s, but the flow of visitors—most of whom are Japanese—has diminished in recent years with the downturn in Asian economies and the crash of a Korean Airlines flight in 1997.[5] Garment production is by far the most important industry, employing 17,500 mostly Chinese workers.[6]

In 1999, per capita income was $9,151 in the Northern Mariana Islands, compared with $21,587 nationwide. While the national median household income increased by 7 percent between 1989 and 1999 (adjusting for inflation), median household income in the Northern Mariana Islands decreased by 15 percent.[7] This decrease reflects the relatively low wages paid to the growing number of temporary workers in the Northern Mariana Islands. The current minimum wage in the Commonwealth is $3.05 per hour.[8]

Children in the Northern Mariana Islands Compared With the Nation's Children

This section provides an overview of demographic, social, and economic trends for children in the Northern Mariana Islands, based primarily on data released by the U.S. Census Bureau in February 2002. Estimates for the Northern Mariana Islands are compared with estimates for neighboring territories and with national averages that combine data for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Northern Mariana Islands data for 1990 are based on published census reports, available on the U.S. Census Bureau's website (www.census.gov/population/www/proas/pi_cen.html). The U.S. Census Bureau plans to release more detailed tables for the Commonwealth in April 2003. For information about how the census was conducted in the Northern Mariana Islands, see Appendix A.

General Trends

The population living in the Northern Mariana Islands has increased dramatically during the past 30 years (see Table 1). In 1970, residents on the island numbered 9,640. By 1980 the population had increased to 16,780. During the next 10 years, the population more than doubled, to 43,345. Between 1990 and 2000, there was a 60 percent increase in the Commonwealth's population, compared with a 13 percent increase nationwide. In 2000, there were 69,221 people living in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Table 1
Total Population and the Population Under Age 18 in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, 1970-2000

Year	Total population	Population under age 18	
		Number	Percent
1970	9,640	5,509	57%
1980	16,780	7,898	47%
1990	43,345	11,905	27%
2000	69,221	17,733	26%

Sources: 1970 Census General Population Characteristics for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; 1980 Census General Population Characteristics for the Northern Mariana Islands; 1990 Census General Population Characteristics for the Northern Mariana Islands; and 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Although the percentage of the population under age 18 has decreased during the past 30 years, the total number of children in the Northern Mariana Islands has increased. The increase in the population under age 18 has been driven by relatively high fertility rates and by immigration to the Commonwealth. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of children increased 49 percent, from 11,905 to 17,733. In the nation as a whole, the number of children increased by 14 percent during the past decade.

Children as a percentage of the total population in the Northern Mariana Islands has decreased in recent decades because of a large influx of adult, temporary migrant workers—especially from China and the Philippines. Most temporary workers did not bring their families or children with them, causing a drop in the relative size of the child population, from 57 percent of the population in 1970 to only 26 percent in 2000. This is equal to the proportion under age 18 in the United States as a whole (26 percent), and sets the Northern Mariana Islands apart from other Pacific territories, which look much "younger." For example, nearly half of the population in American Samoa—and over one-third of the population in Guam—was under age 18 in 2000.

The rapid increase in the population under age 18 has important social implications for the Commonwealth. Although extended family networks in the Northern Mariana Islands provide a safety net for many children, there is also a growing need for programs to provide child care and youth and family services in the area. Providing services for the young is likely to consume a substantial share of the Commonwealth's limited resources.

Poverty

Between 1989 and 1999, the number of children living in families with incomes below the poverty line grew 43 percent, from 4,539 to 6,501 (see Table 2). However, the *percentage* of children in poor families decreased slightly, from 39 percent in 1989 to 38 percent in 1999. Nationally, the child poverty rate dropped from 18 percent to 16 percent during the 1990s.

Table 2
Children and Families Below Poverty in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, 1989 and 1999

	1989		1999		
Segment of the Population	Number below poverty	Percent below poverty	Number below poverty	Percent below poverty	Percent change in number below poverty
Related children under age 18	4,539	39%	6,501	38%	43%
Under age 5	1,645	41%	2,327	42%	41%
Ages 5 to 17	2,894	38%	4,174	36%	44%
Families	1,707	32%	2,876	31%	68%
With related children under age 18	1,458	35%	2,561	35%	76%
Female-headed families	384	52%	819	49%	113%
With related children under age 18	349	57%	766	54%	119%

Note: Poverty thresholds vary by family size and composition. In 1999, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was $16,895. Poverty status is not determined for people in military barracks or institutional quarters, or for unrelated individuals under age 15. Related children include people under age 18 related to the householder (excluding spouses).
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census Social and Economic Characteristics for the Northern Mariana Islands and 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the Northern Mariana Islands.

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The 1999 child poverty rate in the Northern Mariana Islands was considerably higher than the child poverty rate in nearby Guam (29 percent), but was lower than the poverty rate in American Samoa (67 percent). The child poverty rate in the Commonwealth exceeded the poverty rate in every U.S. state and the District of Columbia.[9] The number of families living in poverty rose from 1,707 in 1989 to 2,876 in 1999, a 68 percent increase. The percentage of families below poverty decreased slightly, from 32 percent in 1989 to 31 percent in 1999.

Female-headed Families

Family structure has important implications for children. Children growing up in single-parent families typically do not have access to the economic or human resources available to children growing up in two-parent families. Nationwide, the number of single-parent families has risen dramatically over the past three decades, causing considerable concern among policymakers and the public. While local social and cultural norms may influence the situation for children living in single-parent families, children in the Northern Mariana Islands growing up in single-parent families are still at an economic disadvantage relative to children growing up in married-couple families. About 35 percent of families with children were below poverty in 1999, while among female-headed families with children, 54 percent were below poverty. Nationwide, about 34 percent of female-headed families with children were below poverty in 1999.

However, in the Northern Mariana Islands, female-headed families are still relatively rare. In 2000, there were 1,106 female-headed families with children, up from 465 in 1990. The number of married-couple families also increased during the decade, from 2,948 to 4,526. In 2000, about 17 percent of families with children in the Northern Mariana Islands were headed by a female householder (see Table 3). This represents an increase over the share of female-headed

families with children in 1990 (12 percent) but is still lower than the national average. Nationwide, the share of female-headed families increased from 20 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 2000.

Table 3
Families With Own Children in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, 1990 and 2000

	1990		2000		Percent change in number of families
Segment of the Population	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total families with own children	3,791	100%	6,569	100%	73%
Married-couple households	2,948	78%	4,526	69%	54%
Female-headed households	465	12%	1,106	17%	138%

Note: Own children include never-married children under age 18 who are sons or daughters of the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census Social and Economic Characteristics for the Northern Mariana Islands and 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the Northern Mariana Islands.

The share of female-headed families increased in 48 of the 50 states during the 1990s (Colorado and Utah were the exceptions). In American Samoa, about 10 percent of families with children were headed by a female householder in 2000, up from 7 percent in 1990. And in Guam, the figure increased from 14 percent to 19 percent during the 1990s. These data suggest that the increase in female-headed households in the Northern Mariana Islands followed a trend seen throughout the United States and its territories.

High School Dropouts

A high school diploma is a critical prerequisite for many entry-level jobs as well as for higher education. Between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of 16-to-19-year-olds in the Northern Mariana Islands who were high school dropouts (not enrolled in school and not high school graduates) increased slightly, from 29 percent to 30 percent. Nationwide, about 10 percent of 16-

to-19-year-olds were high school dropouts in 2000, but the dropout rate varied considerably by state.[10]

In 2000, the Commonwealth's dropout rate was higher than the rate in American Samoa (17 percent) and in Guam (14 percent), and it exceeded the dropout rate in every state.

Demand for Child Care

The need for child care is closely related to the percentage of young children living in families where all of the parents in the household reported being in the labor force during the week before the survey.[11] For children living in single-parent families, this means that the resident parent was in the labor force; for children living in married-couple families, this means that both parents were in the labor force.

Census 2000 data show that the demand for child care is higher in the Northern Mariana Islands than it is in the nation as a whole. In the Northern Mariana Islands, 64 percent of children under age 6 lived in families where all of the resident parents were in the labor force in 2000, compared with 59 percent nationwide, 40 percent in American Samoa, and 56 percent in Guam.

In the Northern Mariana Islands, as elsewhere, it is common for grandparents to provide child care while parents are working, and in many households, grandparents are the primary caregivers for young children. For the 2000 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau added a new question to measure the extent to which grandparents provided care to their grandchildren. In the Northern Mariana Islands, there were 2,183 grandparents who lived with their grandchildren in 2000, and about 58 percent reported that they were responsible for child care. This shows the importance of extended family members—particularly grandparents—as caregivers in the

Commonwealth. Nationally, only 42 percent of grandparents who lived with their grandchildren reported being responsible for child care.

Children in Local Communities

Data from the decennial census provide detailed information for local communities in the Northern Mariana Islands that are not available from any other source. This report takes an in-depth look at the characteristics of children and families living in the four municipalities and 18 municipal districts that make up the territory. The four municipalities in the Northern Mariana Islands—the Northern Islands, Rota Island, Saipan Island, and Tinian Island—are functioning governmental units, roughly equivalent to counties in the United States. The 18 districts are roughly equivalent to minor civil divisions in the United States. The data show wide variations in child outcomes across these jurisdictions. (See Appendices B and C for tables that summarize the data for different areas.)

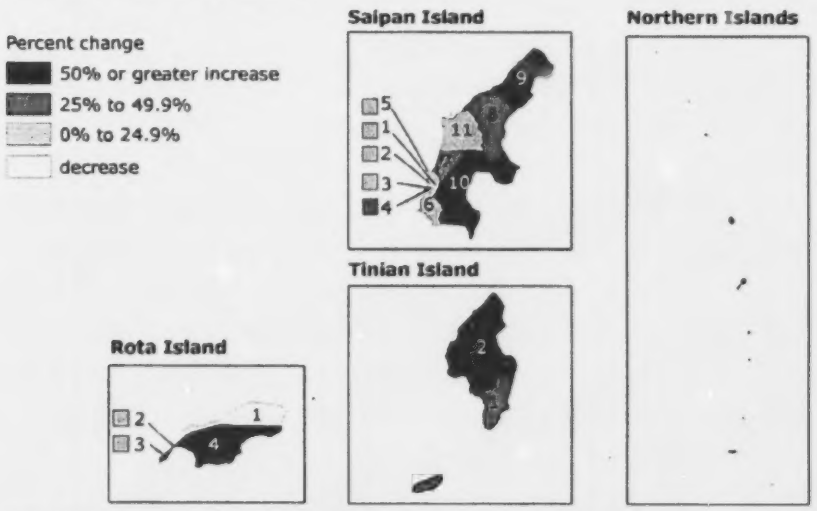
General Trends

Between 1990 and 2000, the population under age 18 living in the Northern Mariana Islands increased significantly in three of the four municipalities (see Map 1). The number of children increased most rapidly on Saipan Island (a 50 percent increase), followed by Tinian Island (44 percent) and Rota Island (43 percent). The sparsely populated Northern Islands was the only municipality where the population under age 18 decreased (due mainly to volcanic activity). There were 16 children living there in 1990, but the recent census recorded only 5 adults and 1 child living there in 2000.

At the district level, Saipan's 10th District had the biggest gains, with a 174 percent increase in the population under age 18. Of the 17 districts outside of the Northern Islands, Rota's 1st District was the only one where the number of children declined, from 137 in 1990 to 122 in 2000.

Map 1

Percent Change in Number of Children in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, 1990 to 2000



Note: The percentage is not shown for the Northern Islands because of the small population base.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Census.

There is also variation in the percentage of the population under age 18 (see Table 4). In 2000, the share of children was lowest on Saipan Island (25 percent), where most of the temporary workers live and work. The percentage of children was substantially higher on nearby Rota (36 percent) and Tinian (31 percent) islands. At the district level, the share of children was lowest in Saipan's 5th and 6th districts, where less than 20 percent of the population was under age 18 in 2000. Children accounted for the largest share of the population in Rota's 2nd and 4th districts (38 percent each) and in Tinian's 2nd District (38 percent).

Table 4

Total Population and the Population Under Age 18 in the Northern Mariana Islands, by Municipality and District, 2000

Area	Total population	Population under age 18	Percent of population under age 18
Northern Mariana Islands	**69,221**	**17,733**	**26%**
Northern Islands	6	1	---
Rota Island	3,283	1,168	36%
District 1	475	122	26%
District 2	113	43	38%
District 3	131	32	24%
District 4	2,564	971	38%
Saipan Island	62,392	15,472	25%
District 1	1,620	411	25%
District 2	957	253	26%
District 3	1,049	264	25%
District 4	639	169	26%
District 5	2,083	339	16%
District 6	12,887	2,323	18%
District 7	3,745	1,123	30%
District 8	6,720	1,511	22%
District 9	1,848	602	33%
District 10	15,845	5,499	35%
District 11	14,999	2,978	20%
Tinian Island	3,540	1,092	31%
District 1	2,477	689	28%
District 2	1,063	403	38%

Note: --- Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 30 cases in the denominator.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the Northern Mariana Islands.

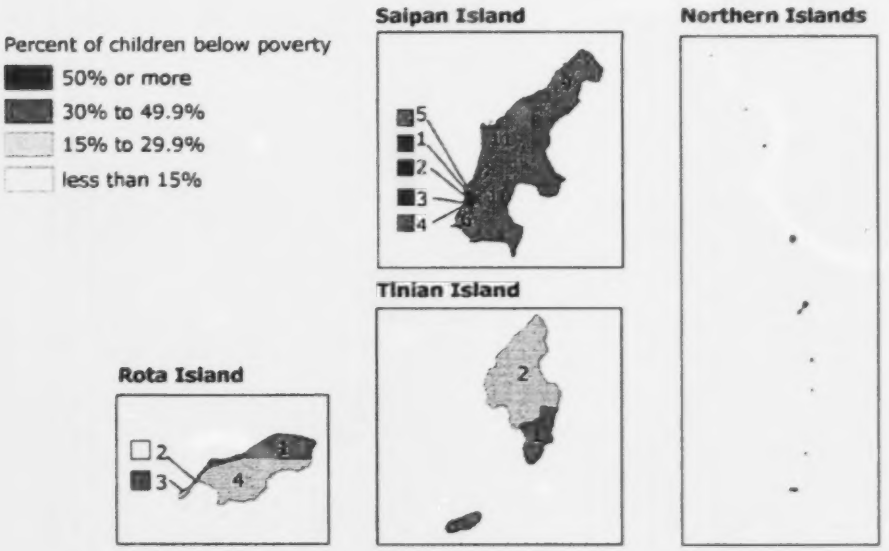
Poverty

Poverty levels are relatively high in all parts of the Commonwealth (see Map 2, Table 5), though certain areas have higher poverty rates than others. In 1999, poverty rates were highest on Saipan Island (39 percent), followed by Tinian (30 percent) and Rota (27 percent) islands. At the

district level, child poverty rates exceeded 50 percent in Saipan's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd districts. Child poverty rates were lowest in Rota's 2nd District (9 percent).

Map 2

Child Poverty Rates in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, 1999



Note: The percentage is not shown for the Northern Islands because of the small population base.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Between 1989 and 1999, poverty decreased slightly in the Northern Mariana Islands as a whole, but local trends varied. There was a substantial decrease in the child poverty rate on Rota Island, from 43 percent in 1989 to 27 percent in 1999. On Tinian Island, the child poverty rate also decreased during the 1990s, from 36 percent to 30 percent. But on Saipan Island, the rate stayed constant over the decade at 39 percent. Saipan Island also had the lowest median household income in 1999 ($22,555), compared with $23,542 on Tinian Island and $28,708 on Rota Island.

Table 5
Related Children Below Poverty in the Northern Mariana Islands, by Municipality and District, 1999

Area	Number of related children below poverty	Percent of related children below poverty
Northern Mariana Islands	**6,501**	**38%**
Northern Islands	1	---
Rota Island	300	27%
District 1	40	34%
District 2	4	9%
District 3	8	31%
District 4	248	26%
Saipan Island	5,882	39%
District 1	206	51%
District 2	120	50%
District 3	143	55%
District 4	55	33%
District 5	123	38%
District 6	1,015	45%
District 7	465	43%
District 8	550	38%
District 9	194	33%
District 10	2,037	38%
District 11	974	33%
Tinian Island	318	30%
District 1	239	35%
District 2	79	20%

Note: Poverty thresholds vary by family size and composition. In 1999, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was $16,895. Poverty status is not determined for people in military barracks or institutional quarters, or for unrelated individuals under age 15. Related children include people under age 18 related to the householder (excluding spouses).
--- Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 30 cases in the denominator.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Female-headed Families

Female-headed families were relatively rare throughout the Northern Mariana Islands in 2000 (see Table 6). The percentage of families with children that were headed by a female householder ranged from 16 percent on Rota Island to 17 percent on Saipan and Tinian islands.

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At the district level, the share of female-headed families exceeded 20 percent in Saipan's 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 7th districts. The percentage of female-headed households was lowest in Saipan's 9th District (13 percent).

Table 6
Female-Headed Families With Own Children in the Northern Mariana Islands, by Municipality and District, 2000

Area	Families with own children	Female-headed families with own children	Percent of families with own children that are headed by women
Northern Mariana Islands	**6,569**	**1,106**	**17%**
Northern Islands	0	0	---
Rota Island	376	60	16%
District 1	35	6	17%
District 2	11	2	---
District 3	7	0	---
District 4	323	52	16%
Saipan Island	5,824	984	17%
District 1	170	38	22%
District 2	93	20	22%
District 3	122	31	25%
District 4	63	15	24%
District 5	160	25	16%
District 6	887	154	17%
District 7	414	86	21%
District 8	495	76	15%
District 9	216	28	13%
District 10	1,995	309	15%
District 11	1,209	202	17%
Tinian Island	369	62	17%
District 1	230	41	18%
District 2	139	21	15%

Note: Own children include never-married children under age 18 who are sons or daughters of the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.
--- Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 30 cases in the denominator.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the Northern Mariana Islands.

High School Dropouts

Dropout rates in 2000 varied in the Commonwealth's local areas (see Table 7). Saipan Island had by far the highest percentage of teens ages 16 to 19 who dropped out of high school (32 percent), compared with 8 percent on Rota Island and 18 percent on Tinian Island. In Saipan's 5th District, 44 percent of teens were high school dropouts in 2000. Many teens in Saipan drop out of high school in order to work in the garment factories or in one of the many service jobs that cater to tourists to the area. Other dropouts are young, temporary workers from China or the Philippines who did not graduate from high school in their home countries.

Demand for Child Care

In 2000, the demand for child care was highest on Rota Island, where 70 percent of children lived in families with all parents in the labor force (see Table 8). Tinian Island was close behind at 69 percent, and Saipan Island followed at 64 percent. At the district level, the need for child care was most pronounced in Saipan's 1st District, where more than three-fourths of children lived in families with all parents in the labor force. On Saipan Island, where only 3 percent of the labor force was unemployed in 2000, there is a special need for child care services for families with young children.

Table 7

Teens Who Are High School Dropouts in the Northern Mariana Islands, by Municipality and District, 2000

Area	Teens ages 16 to 19	Teens ages 16 to 19 who are high school dropouts	Percent of teens ages 16 to 19 who are dropouts
Northern Mariana Islands	**3,209**	**958**	**30%**
Northern Islands	2	2	---
Rota Island	168	13	8%
District 1	21	1	---
District 2	8	0	---
District 3	3	0	---
District 4	136	12	9%
Saipan Island	2,869	912	32%
District 1	48	5	10%
District 2	33	10	30%
District 3	33	11	33%
District 4	22	3	---
District 5	61	27	44%
District 6	574	212	37%
District 7	179	36	20%
District 8	368	123	33%
District 9	80	23	29%
District 10	855	236	28%
District 11	616	226	37%
Tinian Island	170	31	18%
District 1	104	18	17%
District 2	66	13	20%

Note: --- Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 30 cases in the denominator.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Table 8

Children Under Age 6 With All Parents in the Labor Force in the Northern Mariana Islands, by Municipality and District, 2000

Area	Children under age 6	Children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force
Northern Mariana Islands	**5,742**	**3,693**	**64%**
Northern Islands	0	0	—
Rota Island	361	251	70%
District 1	33	20	61%
District 2	5	4	—
District 3	5	3	—
District 4	318	224	70%
Saipan Island	5,053	3,216	64%
District 1	134	102	76%
District 2	93	61	66%
District 3	93	61	66%
District 4	38	19	50%
District 5	132	98	74%
District 6	744	445	60%
District 7	398	246	62%
District 8	401	224	56%
District 9	166	112	67%
District 10	1,785	1,138	64%
District 11	1,069	710	66%
Tinian Island	328	226	69%
District 1	204	145	71%
District 2	124	81	65%

Note: — Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 30 cases in the denominator.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Appendix A: Census 2000 Long Form Questionnaire Used in the Northern Mariana Islands

In the United States, the census long form was sent to a sample of approximately 1 in 6 residents, but in the Northern Mariana Islands every household with a mailbox received a long form questionnaire. The long form includes all of the basic demographic questions from the census short form, plus questions on education, family structure, household characteristics, income, place of residence, and other characteristics. Since the long form data for the Northern Mariana Islands are based on a complete enumeration of the population, there is no sampling error associated with these data. However, it is important to remember that there may be other sources of error associated with these numbers.

In the Northern Mariana Islands, people were enumerated based on usual place of residence. Therefore, foreign travelers and others who do not have their usual residence in the Northern Mariana Islands are excluded from this analysis. Temporary workers, who live and work in the Commonwealth, are treated as usual residents.

The questionnaire on population characteristics in the Northern Mariana Islands closely matches the census form used in the United States, with a few minor modifications:

- In the Northern Mariana Islands, information on race and ethnicity was collected in a single, open-ended question: "What is this person's ethnic origin or race?" while the standard short form included separate questions on race and Hispanic origin, each with a list of distinct categories.
- While the standard long form included a question about level of education, residents of the Northern Mariana Islands were also asked whether they had completed any vocational training programs.

- The modified questionnaire in the Northern Mariana Islands excluded the question on ancestry that was asked on the standard long form questionnaire.
- People who were not born in the Northern Mariana Islands were asked to report the main reason for moving to the territory (a question not asked on the standard long form questionnaire).
- People in the Northern Mariana Islands were asked about children ever born, a question that was dropped from the standard 2000 Census long form.
- The census form in the Northern Mariana Islands included questions to determine parental place of birth. This information was not collected from residents of U.S. states or the District of Columbia.
- The census form in the Northern Mariana Islands also included questions to determine subsistence activity during the week prior to the survey.

There were also several questions on housing in the Northern Mariana Islands that were not included on questionnaires in U.S. states, including questions about cooking fuel, source of water, sewage disposal, and condominium status.

The data shown in this report are based on 2000 Census long form data released in February 2002. More detailed long form tables are scheduled to be released in April 2003. For more information about how the census was conducted in the Northern Mariana Islands, see "Introduction to Census 2000 Data Products—Pacific Island Areas" on the U.S. Census Bureau's website at www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/dmd01cdpi.pdf.

Appendix B: Selected Data for the Total Population and for Children in the Northern Mariana Islands, by Municipality and District, 2000

Area	Total population	Population under age 18	Number of related children below poverty (1999)	Family households with own children	Female-headed households with own children	Teens ages 16 to 19	Teens ages 16 to 19 who are high school dropouts	Children under age 6	Children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force
Northern Mariana Islands	**69,221**	**17,733**	**6,501**	**6,569**	**1,106**	**3,209**	**958**	**5,742**	**3,693**
Northern Islands	6	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0
Rota Island	3,283	1,168	300	376	60	168	13	361	251
District 1	475	122	40	35	6	21	1	33	20
District 2	113	43	4	11	2	8	0	5	4
District 3	131	32	8	7	0	3	0	5	3
District 4	2,564	971	248	323	52	136	12	318	224
Saipan Island	62,392	15,472	5,882	5,824	984	2,869	912	5,053	3,216
District 1	1,620	411	206	170	38	48	5	134	102
District 2	957	253	120	93	20	33	10	93	61
District 3	1,049	264	143	122	31	33	11	93	61
District 4	639	169	55	63	15	22	3	38	19
District 5	2,083	339	123	160	25	61	27	132	98
District 6	12,887	2,323	1,015	887	154	574	212	744	445
District 7	3,745	1,123	465	414	86	179	36	398	246
District 8	6,720	1,511	550	495	76	368	123	401	224
District 9	1,848	602	194	216	28	80	23	166	112
District 10	15,845	5,499	2,037	1,995	309	855	236	1,785	1,138
District 11	14,999	2,978	974	1,209	202	616	226	1,069	710
Tinian Island	3,540	1,092	318	369	62	170	31	328	226
District 1	2,477	689	239	230	41	104	18	204	145
District 2	1,063	403	79	139	21	66	13	124	81

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Appendix C: Selected Percentages for Children in the Northern Mariana Islands, by Municipality and District, 2000

District	Percent of population under age 18	Percent of related children below poverty (1999)	Percent of families with children headed by a female householder	Percent of teens ages 16 to 19 who are high school dropouts	Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in labor force
Northern Mariana Islands	**26%**	**38%**	**17%**	**30%**	**64%**
Northern Islands	---	---	---	---	---
Rota Island	36%	27%	16%	8%	70%
District 1	26%	34%	17%	---	61%
District 2	38%	9%	---	---	---
District 3	24%	31%	---	---	---
District 4	38%	26%	16%	9%	70%
Saipan Island	25%	39%	17%	32%	64%
District 1	25%	51%	22%	10%	76%
District 2	26%	50%	22%	30%	66%
District 3	25%	55%	25%	33%	66%
District 4	26%	33%	24%	---	50%
District 5	16%	38%	16%	44%	74%
District 6	18%	45%	17%	37%	60%
District 7	30%	43%	21%	20%	62%
District 8	22%	38%	15%	33%	56%
District 9	33%	33%	13%	29%	67%
District 10	35%	38%	15%	28%	64%
District 11	20%	33%	17%	37%	66%
Tinian Island	31%	30%	17%	18%	69%
District 1	28%	35%	18%	17%	71%
District 2	38%	20%	15%	20%	65%

Note. --- Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 30 cases in the denominator.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, Population and Housing Profile for the Northern Mariana Islands.

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[6] U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, *World Factbook, 2002*, accessed online at www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/cq.html on Dec. 5, 2002.

[7] The 2000 Census, like the 1990 Census, asked questions about income in the previous calendar year. Therefore, income and poverty are reported for 1989 and 1999.

[8] Bank of Hawaii, *Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Report*, August 2001, accessed online at www.boh.com/econ/pdfs/CNMI.pdf on Dec. 5, 2002.

[9] In 1999, the U.S. poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was $16,895. Poverty guidelines include higher income thresholds for Hawaii and Alaska but are not adjusted for U.S. territories. The child poverty rate in the District of Columbia in 1999 was 31 percent.

[10] This national estimate of high school dropouts (10 percent), based on 2000 Census data, differs from the estimate of 11 percent shown in a previous report, "A First Look at Children in the U.S. Virgin Islands," which was based on data from the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey. National numbers from the 2000 Census were unavailable at the time the previous report was published.

[11] The labor force includes people who are employed and also those who are unemployed and looking for work. In the Northern Mariana Islands, about 4 percent of the civilian labor force was unemployed in 2000.

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For More Information:

Additional 2000 Census data on the Northern Mariana Islands (in Excel and PDF format) are available from the U.S. Census Bureau at www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/islandareas.html.

Data for the Northern Mariana Islands from the 1990 Census (in PDF format) are available from the U.S. Census Bureau at www.census.gov/population/www/proas/pi_cen.html.

For definitions of some of the census terms used in this report, see "A Glossary of Census Terms," available on the KIDS COUNT website at www.aecf.org/kidscount/glossary.pdf.

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